

Amendment To The Claims

Claims 1-10 (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) A method for inhibiting TNF- α release from macrophages comprising the step of contacting said macrophages with an effective amount of an α_d monoclonal antibody immunospecific for an α_d polypeptide

wherein said α_d polypeptide is encoded by a polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of:

- a) SEQ ID NO: 1;
- b) a polynucleotide that encodes the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 2; and
- c) a polynucleotide that hybridizes to the complement of the polynucleotide of (a) or (b), under conditions that include a final wash in 1X SSC/0.1% SDS at 65° C,
and wherein said α_d polypeptide retains a biological activity of α_d .

12. (Currently Amended) A method for inhibiting TNF- α release from splenic phagocytes comprising the step of contacting said phagocytes with an effective amount of an α_d monoclonal antibody immunospecific for an α_d polypeptide

wherein said α_d polypeptide is encoded by a polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of:

- a) SEQ ID NO: 1;
- b) a polynucleotide that encodes the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 2; and
- c) a polynucleotide that hybridizes to the complement of the polynucleotide of (a) or (b), under conditions that include a final wash in 1X SSC/0.1% SDS at 65° C,
and wherein said α_d polypeptide retains a biological activity of α_d .

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Amended) The method according to claim 13 wherein the immunospecific anti- α_d monoclonal antibody is specific for the α_d I-domain region.